

April 29, 2004

NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

To Interested Agencies, Environmental Groups and Individuals:

This Notification of Completion confirms that the Environmental Assessment process conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, and of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act has concluded for the Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation Project (TE-40/XTE-45a). The preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was issued for public notice on December 21, 2002, and the 30-day comment period expired on January 21, 2003. Changes in the originally proposed project made it necessary to amend the FNSI. The Amended FNSI was issued for public notice on March 24, 2004, and the 30-day comment period expired on April 24, 2004.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Act (EPA) received one comment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS concurred that the proposed project design changes would not significantly change the proposed project or its potential impacts on threatened or endangered species. Therefore, their previous concurrence of January 10, 2003, remains valid.

To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds, FWS recommend that the following revised activity restrictions be observed: (1) on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and avoid impacting them during the breeding season, (2) for colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills), anhingas, and/or cormorants, all activity occurring within 1,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15, depending on species present), and, (3) for colonies containing nesting gulls, terns, and/or black skimmers, all activity occurring within 650 feet of a rockery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 16 through April 1, depending on species present). EPA concurs with the FWS recommendations.

The EPA thus has determined that the proposed project will not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

Responsible Official,

Rhonda Smith
Acting Chief, Office of Planning and Coordination